Seismic survey conducted in West Bengal

3405. DR. R. K. PODDAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the findings of the seismic surveys conducted in West Bengal;

(b) whether any steps have been taken as a follow-up action; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) In addition to the better understanding of the basin configuration, the surveys have led to the identification of prospects that could be taken up for exploratory drilling in West Bengal.

(b) and (c) ONGC have so far drilled 15 wells in West Bengal; 3 wells are presently under drilling. So far no commercial discovery of hydrocarbons has been made in this basin.

Kathalguri Project

3406. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for taking away the execution and operation of the proposed Kathalguri Project in Upper Assam from the North Eastern Electrical Corporation and entrusting the same to the Assam State Electricity Board in view of the latter's superiority in skill and man-power; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Industries in Backward Areas of the Country

3407. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of industries established in the backward areas of the country during the last three years; year-wise and State-wise; and

(b) the number of persons employed in those industries with State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) A statement is enclosed. [*See* below]

(b) Details regarding number of persons employed in the licenced industrial projects are not centrally maintained in the Ministry of Industry.

Statement

Year-wise and State-wise break-up of number of industrial licences issued for backward areas during the last three years.

State/Union Territory	1985	1986	1987
1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2	1	..
2. Andhra Pradesh	37	22	22